

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-04

SCCT-02 USSS-00 DRC-01 IO-14 /116 W

----- 071778

Z 212228Z JUL 74 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9119

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO FLASH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CI, LE

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CHILEAN AMBASSADOR CANALAS

1. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR ALFREDO CANALAS WAS WOUNDED
TONIGHT, JULY 21, BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS. CIRCUMSTANCES
AS FOLLOWS:

2. BETWEEN 9:30 AND 9:45 P.M. LOCAL TIME JULY 21,
THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR ALFREDO CANALAS (FORMER BRIGADIER
GENERAL CHILEAN ARMY WHO ARRIVED BEIRUT FEBRUARY THIS
YEAR) AND HIS WIFE WERE RETURNING TO THEIR APARTMENT
WHEN THREE OR FOUR MEN ACCOSTED THEM AS THEY WERE
ENTERING THE LOBBY. THE ASSAILANTS THREW MRS. CANALAS
TO THE GROUND, KICKED HER AND SHOT THE AMBASSADOR
WITH TWO BULLETS IN THE HEAD AND TWO IN THE CHEST. AMER-
ICAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HOOPER, VALLEJO (FBO FOREIGN EMPLOYEE)
AND BRENNAN WHO LIVE IN BUILDING HEARD GUNFIRE, RUSHED DOWN TO
INVESTIGATE AND SAW THREE TO FOUR MEN LEAVING BUILDING WHOM
THEY DESCRIBED AS YOUNG. TWO OF ASSAILANTS RAN AWAY QUICKLY WHILE
A THIRD DRESSED IN LIGHT-COLORED TEE SHIRT FIRED BLINDLY AS HE
FLED. A FOURTH MAN WAS PRESENT WHO WAS OLDER AND

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DRESSED IN BLACK, CARRYING SMALL SACHEL SIMILAR TO

DOCTOR'S BAG. NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE A BYSTANDER OR MEMBER OF GROUP.

3. BRENNAN CALLED FOR AMBULANCE TO TAKE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS STILL ALIVE TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. BEFORE AMBULANCE ARRIVED LOCAL POLICE (SQUAD 16) APPEARED ON SCENE AND TOOK AMBASSADOR TO AUB HOSPITAL IN SQUAD CAR. VALLEJO, WHO SPEAKS SPANISH ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR AND WIFE TO EMERGENCY WARD OF AUB HOSPITAL. AMBASSADOR'S COLOR AND RESPIRATION GOOD ACCORDING TO BRENNAN BUT EXTENT OF INJURY UNKNOWN THIS POINT. LEBANESE POLICE HAVE QUESTIONED THREE AMERICANS AND ASKED VALLEJO TO GO TO LOCAL POLICE STATION FOR FURTHER INQUIRY WHICH IS UNDERWAY.

4. AMBASSADORS OF URUGUAY AND EQUADOR WERE NOTIFIED AND ARE AT AUB EMERGENCY WARD WITH CANALAS'S WIFE. LEBANESE FORMIN PROTOCOL ALSO INFORMED.

5. AMERICAN OFFICERS COOPERATING WITH POLICE BUT HAVE BEEN TOLD NOT TO SPECULATE AS TO IDENTITY OF ASSAILANTS AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES.

6. COMMENT: AS OF MOMENT, WE HAVE NO IDEA AS TO IDENTITY OF ASSAILANTS.
GODLEY

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NNN

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